

# CCD BULLETIN

## Issues in Coastal Community Development

### FROM THE FIELD: COASTAL DEVELOPMENT MINI-GRANTS

The South Carolina Coastal Community Initiative (CCI) is a collaborative land use planning and water quality program for local decision-makers. A joint effort of the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium and Clemson University Extension Service, the CCI offers assistance to local communities that have expressed a willingness to take a comprehensive approach to land use planning and resource management. As part of the CCI, a small grants program was established in 2003 to enhance South Carolina's NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) program as well as to promote "quality growth" land management policies and practices. Recipients of these mini-grants (usually \$2,500 each) have leveraged additional funds to address a variety of issues related to stormwater runoff and water quality management, open space preservation, alternative transportation and greenway pedestrian/biking access, and natural resource-based planning.

The first CCI grants were awarded to the Towns of Edisto Beach and Bluffton in 2003. As a part of the awards, Sea Grant Extension staff provided water quality education and technical assistance training to local officials, including recommendations on best management practices for reducing polluted runoff. In Edisto Beach, these recommendations were incorporated into sections on new development and water quality in the town's comprehensive plan. The town is also developing an area-wide stormwater management plan to encourage on-site treatment of polluted runoff with buffers and other landscaping features, and is formulating additional recommendations for zoning and ordinance changes to further control runoff.



[Photos from Town of Bluffton]

The Town of Bluffton, which has faced dramatic growth pressures in recent years, used its grant funding to create a critical resources map and develop natural resource protection ordinances for wetlands, floodplains, trees and wildlife habitat. The Critical Resources Survey and Map is the beginning of a process to document the importance of the natural features that make Bluffton a unique and desirable place to live, while identifying threats to natural systems and species, and providing recommendations for preserving and enhancing these resources. Natural resource protection ordinances for trees and native landscapes are already in place, and several others are expected to be adopted by the end of this year.

These and other CCI-funded projects are meeting the specific land use planning needs of South Carolina coastal communities as part of the quality growth approach promoted by the CCI program: *first* identifying the community's resources, their importance and available tools for managing them; *second*, incorporating this knowledge into comprehensive plans; and *third*, giving "teeth" to planning efforts via land use ordinances and regulations.

(For more information contact April Turner at [april.turner@scseagrants.org](mailto:april.turner@scseagrants.org) or Dan Hitchcock at [dhitchc@clemson.edu](mailto:dhitchc@clemson.edu).)



## BOOK REVIEW

### ***The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces***

By William H. Whyte

Reviewed by John Jacob, Texas Sea Grant

William “Holly” Whyte was one of the few urban scientists to study how urban spaces, particularly parks, work. Holly Whyte was famous for putting hidden cameras in parks and tracking use and behavior patterns. What we get is a marvelously empirical guide to what makes a city park work—not a sterile architectural prescription. “It is wonderfully encouraging,” Holly Whyte tells us, “that places people like best of all, find least crowded, and most restful are small spaces marked by a high density of people and a very efficient use of space.” Parks are critical to making density livable (and, happily, density is critical to making great parks!). This slim book, first published in 1980, is the best guide for urban parks I have seen. All of the parameters are here—food, sitting space, trees, how to handle undesirables (“places designed with distrust get what they are looking for”), relationships to streets etc. This book reads like it was written by an extension specialist—not a theoretical academician. *Small Urban Spaces* and other works by Whyte opened my eyes to the importance of open space designed for humans. Greens often confuse the need for open space as a need for *wild* open space in the city, and neglect the kind of green spaces *humans* need. *Small Urban Spaces* is the fundamental reference for a human ecology of urban open space – exactly the science we need for livable cities.

*The CCD Bulletin is edited and distributed by the National Sea Grant Office. But for the most meaningful content, we're relying on you. We're especially interested in sharing your stories of successful (or less than successful) coastal community development projects. Please send your suggestions, submissions and insights to: [Amy.Zimmerling@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Zimmerling@noaa.gov).*



## COMMUNITY TOOL SHED

### **Coastal Resource Inventory Tutorial**

From the National NEMO Network

<http://nemo.uconn.edu/coastal/tutorial/tutorial.htm>

This on-line tutorial is designed for Connecticut, but the how-to principles apply to any area where there is a need to inventory natural resources as a first step to better planning. Be sure to click on the “Learn More” button on each panel for a more thorough discussion of each step.

### **Open Space Planning Packet**

From the National NEMO Network

This packet of materials includes several individual fact sheets on open space identification, characterization, prioritization and acquisition; a set of model open space regulations regarding subdivision; and a manual on how to conduct a natural resource inventory. While some of the material is specific to Connecticut, most of it is widely applicable.

This resource is available in hard copy only. To order (\$5), go to:

<http://web.uconn.edu/nemo/publications/index.htm#factsheets>  
[scroll down to “Planning” section]



## WHO'S WHO: NEMO

**The National NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) Network** is an association of education programs teaching local land use decision-makers about the relationship between land use and natural resource protection. Several NEMO programs are headed by, or otherwise affiliated with, the Sea Grant Coastal Community Development Program. If you're not one of these CCD/NEMO hybrids, go to [nemo.uconn.edu/national/members.htm](http://nemo.uconn.edu/national/members.htm) to learn about NEMO in your region.